

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 057073
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 L-03 DHA-02 H-01
PA-01 PRS-01 NSC-05 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 /063 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:BA
APPROVED BY AF-WESCHAUFLE
-----150302Z 032477 /70

O R 150231Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, CASE (DARNTON, JOHN)

SUBJECT: EXPULSION NYT CORRESPONDENT DARNTON

REF: A) STATE 55983 (NOTAL), B) STATE 31890 3/76 (NOTAL)

1. AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE ASKED NIGERIAN CHARGE
OBE TO CALL ON HIM MARCH 14, REGARDING DARNTON EXPULSION.
OBE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SUCCESSOR AUSQUO-ETA EMENYI.

2. SCHAUFLE NOTED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO PRESENCE
OF WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS IN LAGOS AND RECALLED DIS-
CUSSION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND OBE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO
REGARDING POSSIBLE FMG APPROVAL FOR AMERICAN CORRESPON-
DENTS TO RESIDE IN NIGERIA. HE REFERRED TO STORY IN NEW
YORK TIMES MARCH 14, IN WHICH DARNTON REPORTS HIS ARREST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 057073

AND DEPORTATION (COPY BY POUCH). HE EXPRESSED US REGRET
REGARDING THE NIGERIAN ACTION AND REQUESTED THAT THE
EXPULSION ORDER BE REVERSED. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT
TO EXPEL A CORRESPONDENT MERELY BECAUSE SOME OF HIS
DISPATCHES PUT NIGERIA "IN A BAD LIGHT" WOULD BE
REGARDED AS LESS THAN ADEQUATE EXPLANATION IN US AND
THAT NEWS OF DARNTON'S DEPORTATION WOULD DETRACT FROM

THE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF NIGERIA CREATED BY REPORTS
OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO LAGOS.

3. OBE REPLIED THAT HE REGRETTED THE NECESSITY FOR THE
DEPORTATION ORDER BECAUSE COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS GARBA HIMSELF HAD ARRANGED FOR PERMISSION FOR
NEW YORK TIMES TO OPEN BUREAU IN LAGOS. INITIALLY, SAID
OBE, DARNTON'S REPORTS HAS BEEN BALANCED AND FACTUAL.
RECENTLY, HOWEVER, HIS REPORTING HAD BEGUN TO BE SLANTED
AND TO INCLUDE SOME PERSONAL JUDGMENTS. FOR INSTANCE,
HE HAD REPORTED SOME TROOP MOVEMENTS IN SUCH A FASHION
THAT THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON RECEIVED A NUMBER OF
CALLS FROM NIGERIANS LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES WHO
FEARED THAT THE REPORT OF TROOP MOVEMENTS PORTENDED A
COUP. BECAUSE OF INCREASING NIGERIAN UNHAPPINESS WITH
DARNTON'S REPORTING, COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
GARBA HAD RAISED THE MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR EASUM AND HAD
IN EFFECT LAID OUT TWO ALTERNATIVES, EITHER TO EXPEL
DARNTON OR TO WARN HIM. OBE BELIEVED THAT AMBASSADOR
EASUM HAD TRANSMITTED THE FMG'S WARNING TO DARNTON.
NEVERTHELESS, DARNTON'S REPORTING CONTINUED TO BE UN-
SATISFACTORY IN THE EYES OF THE FMG.

4. SCHAUFEELE ASKED IF DARNTON HAD REPORTED ANYTHING NOT
ALREADY IN THE NIGERIAN PRESS. OBE REPLIED "WE DO NOT
NEED PEOPLE WHO WILL TELL THE OUTSIDE WORLD ABOUT EVENTS
THAT ARE PURELY NIGERIAN".

5. AMBASSADOR SCHAUFEELE RENEWED HIS REQUEST FOR A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 057073

REVERSAL OF THE EXPULSION ORDER AND ASKED OBE TO REPORT
THE VIEWS HE HAD EXPRESSED TO LAGOS.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE057073
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TWMSMITH:BA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770087-1015
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770358/aaaabyru.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9519f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 55983, 77 STATE 31890
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3102292
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPULSION NYT CORRESPONDENT DARNTON
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, NI, NY TIMES, (DARNTON, JOHN)
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9519f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009